

A Guide to the Henkel Family Papers

Henkel Family Papers 1791-1885

1791-1885

A Collection in Special CollectionsThe University of Virginia Library 8653-c

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History

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A Guide to the Henkel Family Papers

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Descriptive Summary

Collection Number

8653-c

Language

English

Extent

225 items

Repository

Special Collections, University of Virginia Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

See the [University of Virginia Library's use policy](#).

Acquisition Information

This collection was given to the Library on November 6, 1935 by Mrs. John Godfrey Miller of New Market, Virginia, in memory of Mr. John Godfrey Miller, through D. H. E. Comstock of Winchester, Virginia.

Preferred Citation

Henkel Family Papers, Accession #8653-c, Special Collections, University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, Va.

Scope and Content

This addition to the Henkel family papers contains 225 items (3 Hollinger boxes; 1 linear shelf foot), 1791-1885, chiefly the correspondence of David Henkel (1795-1831) and other members of the family, manuscripts concerning religion and printing, notebooks relating to medical or scholastic subjects, and miscellaneous family papers. The Henkel family of New Market, Virginia, operated the Henkel printing press which became the most important bilingual printing establishment for German Lutherans in the states of Virginia, Tennessee, and North Carolina during the nineteenth century. For more information concerning the contributions of the Henkel family to the printing of religious works and preaching in the Lutheran Church, consult Klaus Wust's "Guide to the Henkel Family Papers" and Christopher L. Dolinetsch's book, *The German Press of the Shenandoah Valley*.

Most of the early correspondence, [1812]-1823, consists of letters of David Henkel to his brother, Solomon Henkel (1777-1847), or other family members, and generally concern the publication plans for religious books, pamphlets, and hymnals, his travels as a Lutheran preacher, Biblical exegesis, book sales, Lutheran synodical affairs, Lutheran doctrine, and revisions of Henkel publications. All of David Henkel's letters are in German script unless otherwise noted.

The following list of letters from David Henkel to his brother Solomon usually include brief content notes: fragment ([1812]); hymnal publication (Oct. 12, 1812); travel and news of South Carolina (Nov. 10, 1812); Biblical passages (Apr. 29, 1813); book orders (Jun. 17, 1813); content unknown (Jun. 19 and Oct. 21, 1813); in English, a long discourse on religious ideas, especially concerning the errors of the Calvinists and other sects (Jan. 15, 1814); in English, the need for many English Christian catechisms in the South (Jun. 28, 1815); book orders (Jul. 24, 1816 and Apr. 30, 1817); content unknown (Mar. 10 and May 22, 1817); in English, David advises Solomon not to print any more German hymnals and that the Synod has appointed him as a missionary to the West Tennessee area (Oct. 29 , 1817); publishing and theological writing (Jan. 23, 1818); travel plans and book orders from Europe (Jun. 17, 1818); book sales and travel plans to Louisiana (Aug. 21, 1818); David's aborted trip to Louisiana and his travels as a guest preacher in the Carolinas (Dec. 4, 1818); potential lawsuits over printing delays and synodical matters (flay 31, 1819); synodical controversy (Aug. 9, 1819); printing (Jan. 27, 1820); proposed constitution for a German Society and publishing projects (Apr. 7, 1820); sales of ABC books (Jul. 7, 1820); proposal to publish a book of Lutheran doctrine and belief (Aug. 9, 1820); outline of points to be included in a projected book (Oct. 3, 1820); committee report and findings regarding David Henkel and synodical affairs (Oct. 28, 1820); in English, news that the North Carolina synod is in great confusion and the necessity of a visit to all the churches (Oct. 29, 1820); hymnal orders and synodical matters, especially in Tennessee (Dec. 18, 1820 and Feb. 10, 1821); revisions and printing orders (Feb. 23 and Mar. 1, 1821); content unknown (Apr. 12, 1821); synod business, especially in Tennessee (Apr. 17, Jun. 9 and 23, 1821); book orders (Jul. 9, 1821); hymnal orders, writing projects and synodical matters (Aug. 2, 1821); content unknown (Oct. 5, 1821); travels and book distribution (Nov. 29, 1821); fiscal affairs of the synod (Dec. 17, 1821); selections from the Catechism in both German and English and other religious writings (Jan. 31, 1822); the book business and church matters (Mar. 1, 1822); content unknown (Mar. 19, 1822); distribution of ABC books (Apr. 13, 1822); proposal to publish hymnal (May 30, 1822); business transactions (Jun. 25, 1822); consideration of whether to move to New Market (Aug. 9, 1822); tithing (Nov. 18, 1822); synodical matters (Nov. 24, 1822); book business and travel west to Kentucky and Tennessee (May 5, 1823); content unknown (May 11, [n. y.]); publishing proposal, including a tract on baptism (Dec. 25, [n. y.]); and Lutheran doctrine.

David Henkel's letters to others include the following subjects: travel to South Carolina (Apr. 22, 1813); various writings in progress (Dec. 1, 1815) and with content unknown (Feb. 22, 1815; Apr. 23, 1816; and Oct. 30, 1820).

The other major group of letters consists of the correspondence of the Henkel family . Most of this correspondence is concerned with the translation and revision of the Book of Concord, or Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church , which was undertaken by the Henkel family as a labor of love for the benefit of the Lutheran Church in the United States. In addition to members of the Henkel family , H. Wetzel and J. R. Moser were employed as translators for the Book of Concord by Solomon D. Henkel and Company . Both men corresponded with members of the Henkel family . Letters written on the following dates discuss

their translations: Mar. 20, Apr. 30, and Aug. 18, 1846; Aug. 3 and Dec. 8, 1847; Feb. 4, Mar. 25, and Aug. 25, 1848.

The revision of the *Book of Concord*, begun in 1851, attracted the services of several well-known Lutheran scholars. Copies of the letters of Samuel G. Henkel and Solomon D. Henkel to these men asking for their help in revising the various sections of the Book of Concord and responding to the corrections and the replies from these scholars compose the majority of the correspondence from 1851-1854. Those scholars who contributed to the second edition include Charles Philip Rrauth of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, W. F. Lehman of Columbus, Ohio, John G. Morris of Baltimore and Charles F. Schaeffer of Easton, Pennsylvania. Letters concerning the work on the second edition of the Book of Concord include: Dec. 22, 24, 28, 30, and 31, 1851; Jan. 6, 12, 13, 15, 16, 21, and 25; Feb. 5 and 13; Mar. 2, 4, 6, and 27; Apr. 12, 20, and 26; May 18; Jun. 21 and 30; Jul. 23; Aug. 5; Sep. 3, 8, 20, and 22; Nov. 22; and Dec. 15, 1852; Feb. 19; Jun. 20; Jul. 16; and Nov. 1 and 2, 1853, Feb. 8; Mar. 2, 22, and 28; Apr. 3, 7, 14, 18, 21, 24, and 26; May 4, 5, 3, 9, 15, 22, and 30; Jul. 27; Sep. 9, 1854; and Sep. 17, n. y.

Other subjects include: the death of Solomon D. Henkel (Nov. 23, 1847); the Lutheran ministry (Feb. 23, 1848, and Aug. 1849); the translation of the Book of Concord (Aug. 11, 1848; Jan. 20, 1849; Feb. 13, 1849; Nov. 12, 1851; Mar. 22 and 29, 1853); various synodical affairs (Jun. 24, 1848; Dec. 5, 1851; Jan. 30, 1852; Apr. 28, May 2, and Aug. 31, 1853; and Sep. 21, 1857); deeds of the old Benner land in Albemarle County, Virginia (Dec. 21, 1849); publication of a translation of Luther's Church Postil, a series of sermons on the epistles of the Church Year (Oct. 29 and Llov. 4, 1356; and Apr. 29, 1857) and medical cases (Aug. 6, 1866; Dec. 13, 1880; and Apr. 9, 1885).

Other materials in this collection include notebooks kept by Samuel G. Henkel during the time he studied to be a physician, especially on nosology, osteology and myology. There are also German and English manuscripts concerning Lutheran doctrine, Biblical exegesis, commentaries, a catechistic tract, religious adages, religious treatises, synodical affairs, sermons, a translation of the "Apologia of the Confession" and "The Lesser Catechism of the Eminent Martin Luther". There are also papers concerning the General and Tennessee Synod of the Lutheran Church and the translation of the revision of the Book of Concord.

Organization

The Henkel Family papers are organized in three series: I. Correspondence (which is arranged chronologically); II. Notebooks; III. manuscripts. The third series is further subdivided into German and English manuscripts.

Contents List

Series I: Correspondence

Letters from David Henkel

Unit Date [1812]-1 815

Container Box 1

Letters from David Henkel

Unit Date 1816-1819

Container Box 1

Letters from David Henkel

Unit Date 1820-1821

Container Box 1

Letters from David Henkel

Unit Date 1822-1823; [n.y.] May and Dec.; n.d.

Container Box 1

Correspondence of the Henkel Family

Unit Date 1813-1822 and 1846-1849

Container Box 1

Correspondence of the Henkel Family

Unit Date 1850-1851

Container Box 1

Correspondence of the Henkel Family

Unit Date 1852

Container Box 1

Corresponuence of the Henkel Family

Unit Date 1853

Container Box 2

Correspondence of the Henkel Family

Unit Date 1854-1857

Container Box 2

Correspondence of the Henkel Family

Unit Date 1866-1885, n.d. and n.y.

Container Box 2

Series II: Notebooks

Class Notebooks belonging to Samuel G. Henkel concerning exercises in Orthography

Unit Date 1819 and 1822 Mar

Container Box 2

Class Notebook belonging to Samuel G. Henkel concerning Animal History or Classification

Unit Date [1823 ?]

Container Box 2

Class Notebook belonging to Samuel G. Henkel concerning Botany, in German

Unit Date 1821

Container Box 2

Class Notebooks belonging to Samuel G. Henkel concerning Latin, with German notes

Unit Date 1823 Nov 12 and 1824 Jan 22

Container Box 2

A Notebook kept by Dr. Samuel G. Henkel concerning Osteology and Myology

Unit Date 1827 Jan

Container Box 2

Notebooks kept by Samuel G. Henkel concerning Nosology and Treatment

Unit Date 1827 and 1831

Container Box 2

Series III: Manuscripts

A. German

Biblical Excursus by Henrietta Henkel, 3 p.

Unit Date 1820 Oct 12

Container Box 3

Doctrinal Statement (Anonymous), 1 p.

Unit Date 1824

Container Box 3

Copybook containing fables and other children's stories by Solomon G. Henkel, 40 p.

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 3

Sixteen stanzas of verse, possibly a hymn, 2 p.

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 3

"The Magic Theater," including a pencil sketch and description of the "magic lantern," 8 p. on 7 l.

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 3

Miscellaneous religious writings

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 3

Doctrinal and Biblical Commentary, sometimes in a dual language format (incomplete), 236 p.

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 3

Catechistic Tract, 94 p.

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 3

Copybook of religious adages, 46 p. (final leaf missing)

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 3

Religious Treatises, 16 p. and 28 p.

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 3

B. English

Greek exercise book of [Solomon Henkel ?], containing occasional household accounts of Paul Henkel, 30 p.

Unit Date 1791-1792

Container Box 3

**"Reasons Shown Why the Synod in Tennessee has been Established,"
"Arguments in Favor of My Ordination," etc., by Philip Henkel**

Unit Date ca. 1821

Container Box 3

Sermon for a Lenten Sunday

Unit Date n.y. Mar

Container Box 3

A translation of the "Apologia of the Confession" and a Sermon entitled "An impartial investigation of the different Doctrines preached and held forth in the world at this time, " both by Philip Henkel

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 3

"A Gift on Christmas" by David Henkel

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 3

"The Lesser Catechism of the Eminent Martin Luther . . . translated from the German by a gospel friend"

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 3

Sermon Notes or Meditations based on themes from Scripture, in Latin

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 3

Miscellaneous Manuscripts of the Henkel Family

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 3

Papers re the Tennessee Synod of the Lutheran Church

Unit Date [1821]-1822 and n.d.

Container Box 3

Papers re the Translation and Revision of the Book of Concord

Unit Date 1846-1852 and n.d.

Container Box 3

Papers re the General Synod of the Lutheran Church

Unit Date 1819-1822

Container Box 3

Miscellaneous Papers of the Henkel Family

Unit Date 1850-1855, n.d.

Container Box 3